against hoarders and black marketeers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, etc.

(v) Government have decided to import upto 2.00 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97 to augment domestic availability of foodgrains.

World Environment Congress

2623. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the deliberations of the Fifth World Environment Congress held in New Delhi in December, 1996;

(b) whether it has been observed in the Congress that in most of the cities the banks of Ganga are without the sewage treatment plants;

(c) if so, the steps contemplated to make sewage treatment arrangements for such cities;

(d) the other main observations and suggestions made therein for containing and curbing the pollution in the Indian cities and rivers; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No information is available with Government on the Fifth World Environment Congress held in New Delhi in December, 1996.

(b) to (e) Does not arise. However, under the Ganga Action Plan and the National River Conservation Plan Pollution abatement works which include sewage treatment arrangements in most of the places have been sanctioned for 156 towns.

[Translation]

Effect of Insecticides

2624. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether spraying of insecticides have been adversely affecting health of the farmers and labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss of human life and the disease caused due to use of the pesticides during one year in the world as per the report of the World Health Organisation; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The use of registered insecticides as per prescribed practices do not affect the health of the farmers and labourers. However, insecticides being toxic in nature, may pose health hazards if used indiscriminately or injudiciously.

(c) Models and informal estimates based on hospitalisation data and population surveys (WHO:1986) suggest that annual incidence of cases of unintentional acute poisoning with severe manifestations probably exceed one million, with case fatality rate of 0.4-1.9%.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government :-

(i) The Registration Committee set up under the insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after evaluating their safety and efficacy;

(ii) The labels and leaflets which invariably accompany the pesticides containers give directions on the usage, safety measures to be observed, first-aid measures and antidotes to be used in case of accidental poisoning.

(iii) Extension functionaries impart training to farmers and other users on various aspects of pesticides handling and usage including precautions required to be observed;

(iv) The Government is popularising Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology which envisages cultural, mechanical and biological methods of pest control and only need-based judicious use of pesticides.

[English]

Promotion of Marine Fishing

2625. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for promoting the marine fishing in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the Eighth Five Year Plan to assist the State Government of Orissa in increasing the marine fishing;

(c) whether Government have drawn up schemes for the promotion of marine fishing in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the coastal States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The harvestable potential of marine fisheries resources of Orissa has been estimated at 1.44 lakh tonnes. The State during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 harvested 1.04, 1.22 and 1.23 lakh tonnes respectively from the marine sector. Thus, there is some scope for promoting marine fishing in the State.

Besides the Schemes under the State Plan, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing